



Wave

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for the Long Beach community

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Progress Report . . .

Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan

Thanks To The Community

During the past two years, the City of Long Beach (City) has implemented the Council-directed Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan (Plan) to address a projected structural budget deficit over a three-year period. Thanks to extensive and productive deliberations with the City Council, the community, and City staff, \$72 million of an identified \$102 million General Fund structural deficit has been eliminated. However, the City is continuing to ask for community input as solving Year Three's remaining \$30 million structural deficit may be the most difficult challenge yet.

General Fund Nuts and Bolts

The General Fund receives revenues from taxes, fees and other sources that do not have a legally restricted use. This revenue is then used to pay for many critical City services, such as: Police, Fire, Emergency Medical, Library, Parks, Recreation, and Code Enforcement services; Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter Replacement; and Infrastructure Maintenance.

Over the past several years, tax revenue and other resources to support these General Fund services have declined. Making matters worse is the fact that expenses have been increasing, primarily due to escalating workers' compensation, employee benefit, and general liability insurance costs.

Meeting Our Goals: Two Years of Hard Decisions

The Plan has allowed for the elimination of costs through thousands of specific solutions, which have been approved in City budgets over the last two years:

- Reduction of \$10.9 million in General Administration and Management costs
- Elimination of 376 positions
- Increased employee contribution to healthcare and other benefit costs
- Reduction of City-assigned vehicles, cell phones, computers, and other support costs
- Reduction in the Library's hours of operations and materials budgets
- Increased fees-for-service to better recover costs
- Optimizing many City functions including code enforcement, workers' compensation, and fire services to improve the quality of services while saving money.

So far, the City has been able to accomplish these reductions without significantly impacting public safety and emergency services. In fact, with the use of grant funds, 26 police officers have been added to the force over the past two years.

Continuing Challenges

While great progress has been made, much work still remains. In fact, the remaining \$30 million in General Fund structural deficit solutions could be the most difficult to achieve. Reductions must be made during a time when our City desperately needs investment in its infrastructure and neighborhoods. Issues of service demand surrounding a growing population, rising levels of poverty, and the City's ever-changing demographics – coupled with the increased costs of providing service – make prioritizing needs and focusing resources to deliver appropriate services in the years ahead of utmost importance. While the tax base is expected to stabilize in the coming years, aligning services with the community's needs continues to be a challenge.

The City Continues To Need Your Help

These ongoing and emerging challenges mean that more difficult decisions will need to be made in defining the City's priorities and determining where General Fund dollars are to be spent. The City is asking for your ongoing participation to assist in this effort. Many opportunities will be offered to voice your opinions, develop innovative solutions and give feedback.

Learn More and Give Your Suggestions

Budget Oversight Committee Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers. From April through June, City
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There's Nothing Cool About Fireworks

The Danger

A pretty sparkler burns at a whopping 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. It's not a safe toy to put in a child's hand, or an adult's. No firework is. Fireworks are unpredictable. They spit hot sulfur and can unexpectedly explode. They can burn limbs and ruin lives, and there's nothing cool about that.

The Bottom Line

All fireworks, including safe and sane, are against the law in Long Beach. They have been for more than 50 years.



The Consequences

Light any fireworks, in Long Beach and you may spend six months in jail, pay a \$1,000 fine, or both.

The Alternative

This July, over 50 dazzling firework displays (controlled by the hands of professionals who specialize in pyrotechnics) will be held throughout the county. The City of Long Beach encourages everyone to view fireworks in this safe manner. Please check local newspapers for location and times.

In The News . . .

Learn How You Can Make A Difference

Enough is Enough Telethon

Enough Is Enough Telethon, featuring the latest strategies to combat youth and gang violence in Long Beach, will be aired on local Charter Communications channels 3, 8, 15, 18, and 24 on May 12-14. A 90-minute edition will be replayed on various channels in the future. Watch this special program to learn how you can make a difference in your family, your school, and your community.

Hire-A-Youth

Make a difference in the life of a young person and our community by providing a job for a youth this summer. For information on the Hire-A-Youth Program, contact the Youth Opportunity Center at 570.4700 or www.longbeachworkforce.org.

Save A Life!

CPR Sunday is on June 5

Learn the life-saving skill of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), at this annual event sponsored by the Long Beach Fire Department and the American Red Cross. For information call 490.4035 or visit www.cprsunday.org.

Crime Watch

Lock Your Car To Reduce Auto-Crimes

The Long Beach Police Department is concerned with the increase of auto thefts citywide. Targeted vehicles include older models (80's and

early 90's) of Toyota Camry and Corolla, and Honda Civic and Accord. Please keep your vehicles locked at all times, remove valuables, and invest in anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locks, alarms, or ignition kill switches. For information, visit www.longbeachpd.org.

Paying Utility Bills

Drop Box At Long Beach Energy Closed

Effective June 1, Long Beach Energy will no longer be accepting utility payments at the drop box location at 2400 E. Spring Street. Please contact Customer Service Representatives at 570.5700 or visit www.lbenergy.org for other convenient in-person payment locations.

Juneteenth Celebration

Annual Celebration is on June 19

Non-stop entertainment and gospel music is planned for this annual event at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Community Center, 1950 Lemon St. Call 570.4405 for information.

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staff will be attending neighborhood association meetings, and City commission, committee, and board meetings to hear your ideas. Also, a citywide Budget Summit III will be held on July 9.

For specific meeting dates and locations, and for more information on the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget and the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan, please visit our web site at www.longbeach.gov/finance/budget.



Long Beach Water...A Leader in Environmental Stewardship and Water Conservation



Learn how to create a beautiful water-smart landscape that will lower your water bill, reduce yard maintenance, and protect the environment.

FREE four-hour classes are offered once-per-month on Saturday mornings. Upcoming classes and topics scheduled are:

May 21 - Irrigation, soils, landscape maintenance

June 25 - Landscape design and California-friendly plants

Visit our web site at www.lbwater.org for information on class material and schedules. Seating is limited; to reserve a spot today, call 570.2303.